

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 00990 140252Z

70/42

ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 IGA-01 EB-07

/065 W

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R 131030Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1340

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS NICOSIA 0990

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CAPTION)

AIDAC FOR FDRC

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: UNHCR, EAID, CY

SUBJ: REFUGEE TENTS

REF: (A) STATE 054563; (B) STATE 042794

1. SEARS AND ROEBUCK TENTS FROM U.S. APPEAR TO HAVE HELD UP WELL. HAVE RECEIVED NO COMPLAINTS SINCE TENT FLIES WERE PROVIDED. COMPARISON OF USER RESPONSES SUGGESTS U.S. TENTS ARE GENERALLY LESS WELL INSULATED AGAINST COLD THAN GREEK TENTS (DESIGNED AFTER BRITISH OFFICER TENTS). HOWEVER, PLASTIC FLOOR IN U.S. TENTS AS INTEGRAL PART OF WHOLE TENT IS APPRECIATED FACTOR AGAINST WINTER WINDS AND DRAFTS. GREEK TENTS MORE PRONE TO WIND IN THIS RESPECT. CANVAS ON GREEK TENTS OBVIOUSLY FAR BETTER QUALITY THAN U.S. SUMMER TENTS. IN THIS RESPECT WILL NEED QUANTITY RE-WATERPROOFING (SUBJECT LATER CABLE) WHICH GREEK TENTS NOT REQUIRE AS YET.

2. U.S. TENTS VERY VULNERABLE TO ROT ALONG LOWER EDGE WHEN DIRT IS PUSH UP SIDE OF TENTS. GREEK TENTS SHOW NO PROBLEM THIS MATTER.

3. ON STURDINESS, GREEK TENTS APPEAR BETTER DESIGNED. HEAVY
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WOODEN FRAME AND MULTIPLE WELL-ANCHORED TIE LINES GUARANTEE

AGAINST TENTS BLOWN OVER IN STRONG WINDS. U.S. TENTS FARE LESS WELL. WEAK ALUMINUM FRAME TENDS TO BEND, COLLAPSING THE TENT AT ONSET OF VERY STRONG WINDS. ALSO GENERAL MANUFACTURE WEAKNESS DETECTED AT POINTS WHERE SUPPORTS ARE SEWN ON TENT CANVAS.

4. APPEARS REFUGEES LIVING IN GREEK TENTS PREFER THOSE AND REFUGEES LIVING IN U.S. TENTS PREFER U.S. PRODUCT. DISADVANTAGE OF FORMER IS PRESENCE OF CENTER POLLS INSIDE TENTS. STRONG PLUS FOR U.S. PRODUCT IS ABSENCE OF CENTER POLLS AND ADEQUATE HEADROOM FOR OCCUPANTS TO STAND UPRIGHT WITHOUT HEAD TOUCHING ROOF OF TENT.

5. RE REF. (B) UNHCR FAVORABLE IN PRINCIPLE BUT WOULD FIRST APPRECIATE FDRC COST ESTIMATE OF SURFACE TRANSPORTATION. BROWN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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